PROF. K.V. THOMAS: Sir, I am also from Kerala. I was just talking to the hon. Member a few minutes back. I am not bringing any politics into this. The Kerala Government did not bring forward the plans in time. ...*(Interruptions)*... I have got proof of those things. ...*(Interruptions)*... In respect of district level planning, Kerala has completed in 17 districts. But, State level planning has not yet completed. So, the Kerala Government has to take appropriate action in time. And, as these proposals are coming to us, we will take decisions. ...*(Interruptions)*..

MR. CHAIRMAN: No discussion on this. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Sir, he has given an assurance.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No discussion on this. ...*(Interruptions)*... No, Mr. Vijayaraghavan. Please. ...*(Interruptions)*...

Feasibility of semester system

*422.MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that teachers of universities do feel that the semester system is not practical and feasible;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) According to some news reports, faculty in some universities have expressed a view that introduction of the semester system would increase the burden of the teacher and have raised concerns on the ability of the examination system to cope with the increase in evaluation load. Concerns have been stated on the difficulties that students admitted late would have in catching with the backlog of academic work.

(c) Based on the advice of experts bodies, Central Government and University Grants Commission (UGC) have encouraged universities to implement academic reform measures including introduction of the semester system, however, universities have autonomy in academic matters. Section 6(2) of the Central Universities Act, 2009, provides for academic reform measures to be introduced in the 16 newly created Central Universities right from their inception. UGC has written to Vice Chancellors of all Universities for introducing a package of academic reforms, including the introduction of the semester system. Universities enjoy autonomy in academic matters and decision to introduce semester system is within the competence of the appropriate authority, namely the Academic Council of each University.

सुश्री सुशीला तिरिया : सर, मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से आपके माध्यम से यह जानना चाहती हूं कि किन-किन पहलुओं को ध्यान में रखते हुए उन्होंने semester system पाठ्यक्रम चालू करने के लिए विचार किया है और क्या इसमें स्टूडेंट्स को employment guarantee मिलने का प्रावधान भी ध्यान में रखा गया है?

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Sir, as far as the semester system is concerned, this has been really part of the Eleventh Plan process. Sir, if you look at the Eleventh Plan document, you will find, it talks about universalising the semester system. So, as part of the Eleventh Plan document, we moved forward and for the new Central Universities that have been formed, there is a clause saying that they will only have semester system. We want all the existing universities also to follow suit. The advantages of a semester system are many. One, we don't have to wait for one long year to sit for annual examination which only tests your capacity to memorise. What the semester system does is to have two examinations in a year. So, you have a multiplicity of courses that you can attend and there are multidisciplinary academics. So, you can take a major and you can take a minor in different subjects. Actually, that helps you in continuous evaluation throughout the year instead of waiting for the end of the year. So, your depth of learning is more, your breadth of learning is more and you are continuously evaluated throughout the year. Now, in most modern universities in the world, it is the semester system that is followed. In fact, it allows you to interact with the teacher much more than in the previous system. In the previous system, what used to happen was that you started preparing for the exams three or four months before the exams or towards the end of the year and you never really bothered. Here, you have to start thinking about what is going to happen. If we make internal assessment and evaluation a part of the actual final result, children will be more focussed on preparing throughout the year than towards the end of the year. So, various Committees have sat to evaluate the benefits of the semester system, and overwhelmingly, we have found that the semester system is something that must be universalised, and hopefully, in the course of the Eleventh Plan, we hope to do it. In fact, U.G.C, has written to various universities and said that look, we want to put in place this semester system in two years' time. Hopefully, by 2011 or 2012, it will happen.

सुश्री सुशीला तिरिया : सर, मेरा दूसरा सप्लीमेंट्री यह है कि दिल्ली में एजुकेशन मिनिस्टर्स और चीफ मिनिस्टर्स की कॉन्फरेंस हुई थी, जहां कुछ राज्यों ने इसके प्रति विरोध भी जताया था, साथ ही कुछ यूनिवर्सिटीज़ एवं Academic Councils ने भी इसके प्रति विरोध जताया था। मैं यह जानना चाहती हूं कि किन-किन राज्यों एवं काउंसिल्स ने इस सैमिस्टर सिस्टम की सराहना की और किन-किन ने इसका विरोध किया?

कब तक आप इसे यूनिवर्सल लैवल पर लागू करेंगे? अभी तक आपने इसे कुछ Central Universities में ऑलरेडी चालू कर दिया है। विरोध के बावजूद भी आप कब तक इसे यूनिवर्सल लैवल पर लागू करेंगे?

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Sir, first of all, I cannot give a timeframe as to when it will be completed. There are 3 kinds of universities in India, the Central Universities. As far as Central Universities are concerned, the new 16 universities are part of the statute. They have to only have a semester system

and no other system, and as regards the existing universities, dialogues are going on. The UGC has written to the existing universities, and as I have mentioned in the previous answer, the UGC Chairman has said that hopefully, we put in place maximum during the period of two years. Now, Sir, it is really not possible to tell as to when exactly this process will be completed. What is required is a dialogue. There are a lot of universities which have a number of evaluating colleges. Now, can that university with a 100 or more evaluating colleges put up a system which allows the semester system and teachers to evaluate? This is going to be a very difficult process. This is not going to be done overnight. So, we are talking to them. Maybe, we need to change the Ordinances, the Academic Council, the structure of the universities for existing universities. The Academic Council will have to be taken on board, the Executive Council will have to be taken on board, and that is really the problem because universities are autonomous organizations. The State Governments or the Central Government cannot force them that you must do this by such and such time. So, this process of persuasion will go on, and hopefully, we will be able to universalise. These are the benefits of this. If we are able to universalise the semester system, then children studying in one university in one part of the State can do a semester in another university. So, there will be enormous facility for mobility of a student, and those students can take different courses in the different universities, and add those credits for a final degree from the university to which they belong. So, we must ultimately do this for the children because that is really a hope of the future.

PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV: If the semester system is not there, without the semester system, तब भी universalize हो सकता है।

श्री कपिल सिब्बल : नहीं, ऐसा नहीं हो सकता। इसमें बहुत सोच विचार किया गया है। सदन के पश्चात् अलग से एक-दो घंटे देकर मैं आपसे इस पर बात करूंगा।

श्री सभापति : नहीं-नहीं, आप बीच में न बोलें।

प्रो. राम गोपाल यादव : मैं मंत्री जी को यह बताना चाहता हूं कि इसी इंडियन सिस्टम ने इतने बड़े-बड़े विद्वान पैदा किए हैं।

श्री विक्रम वर्मा : वह स्वयं भी तो इसी सिस्टम में पढ़े हुए हैं।

प्रो. राम गोपाल यादव : जी हां, आप जैसे काबिल लोग भी तो इसी सिस्टम से पढ़े हुए हैं।

श्री सभापति : यह अलग डिस्कशन है **...(व्यवधान)...** यह अलग डिस्कशन है **...(व्यवधान)...**

श्री कपिल सिब्बल : ऐसे तो बिना पढ़े भी बहुत काबिल लोग हुए हैं **...(व्यवधान)...** इस सदन में भी कई ऐसे लोग हैं **...(व्यवधान)...**

MR. CHAIRMAN: May I request all concerned to get on with the Question Hour?

DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Sir, many universities in our country have tried this experiment of semester system but it has not succeeded. In most of the universities, semester system requires two things. Firstly, hard work. The teacher should be working continuously and they should be involved in that. And secondly, there is a lack of integrity on the part of the teachers. That is why the system has failed. In fact, we have failed the system. So, now what to do? There is no

work culture in our universities. We have to inculcate it, we have to work very hard, and we have to make it compulsory. Then alone, it can be done. Would our Minister tell us whether the Government is going to make it compulsory?

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Sir, I have already indicated that this is a process through which we must persuade the autonomous institutions like universities to actually adopt the semester system. We cannot do it through a process of compulsion, and I don't think that is a right way forward. But I do not agree with the hon. Member that this has failed everywhere. In fact, in Delhi University itself, in the postgraduate courses, the semester system is already in place, and it is exceptionally successful. For example, in Ambedkar University, it is in place; the whole JN University runs on a semester system, and it is very successful. So, there are several universities where it is already functioning and is exceptionally successful. Now, you are absolutely right that it is not something that will happen overnight; so, we have to adopt it, not as a compulsion, as a way of moving forward, but through persuasion.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Rama Jois.

SHRI M. RAMA JOIS: Sir generally, it is believed that the semester system, a also, other system called 'trimester system' are better than the ordinary non-semester, non-trimester system. Has the Goverment undertaken a comparative merit of the two systems? If so, what is the result thereof?

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Well, Sir, the Government has done. In fact, as I said, it is part of the Eleventh Plan Document. The Planning Commission itself has suggested to universalise it, and I have indicated that to you. Other than that, there have been Committees for academic and administrative reforms. There is a Gyanam Committee which was set up under the UGC; that has gone into it. The National Knowledge Commission, through interaction with various stakeholders, has suggested that we should move a credit system. So, several institutions and several Committees have sat and deliberated upon it, and said that it is a much better system, that we must adopt it. The question is: how long will it take? I think, it will take some time. I don't think there is any doubt that it is a much better system than the annual examination system.

SHRI M. RAMA JOIS: Why it is said that the teachers are not accepting the semester system.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, no; please, no supplementaries on supplementaries!

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Because they have to work harder.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Prof. Soz.

PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: Sir, the hon. Minister is right. In the written reply, he has said that the universities must enjoy academic autonomy and there are academic councils. But in response to the supplementary, he sounded very eloquent in favour of semester system, and very rightly. But my worry is different. Our university system has expanded enormously in response to the needs of the

society, but the University Grants Commission that was primarily instituted for ensuring academic excellence in the universities has become so big and the impression, today, is that it is a funded institution; it does not reflect adversely on the University Grants Commission. It has worked very nicely and, in no way, as for the present set-up - I have no adverse comment to make - they are doing excellent work. But the Minister is incharge of this very important Department and he represents, in a way, the aspirations of people in the country.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Put your question, please.

PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: How does he feel sure on the academic excellence in universities because the University Grants Commission may not be able to do that? Will he look into this aspect that the University Grants Commission is expanded? How can he ensures the academic excellence. Is he devising some instrument so that he feels sure that....

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is not the question. ...*(Interruptions)*... Mr. Soz, please put it.

PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: How will the academic excellence be ensured.

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Sir, it does not relate to the main question at all.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Right.

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: But I want to send a message. ...*(Interruptions)*... I want to send a message to the entire university system, and the message, Sir, is that we are committed to implement the semester system in this country; this is good for the student community, and when we look at education, we look at the students of this country, and not at the teachers. We want the teachers to cooperate for the future generations of this country to absorb and embrace a system which will better the prospects of this country.

Credit rating of MSMEs

*423. DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN:††

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), which are awarded credit rating by different agencies every year;

(b) the steps Government is taking to increase their numbers; and

(c) whether Government is planning to advise National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC) to empanel more agencies for credit rating?

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†† The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Dr. E.M. Sudarsana Natchiappan